

## ***Learning Works:*** **Vision, Mission & Statement of Common Practice**

The name *Learning Works* has been adopted to describe Vermont's Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) system. *Learning Works* is the AEL team at the Vermont Department of Education, and the direct service providers holding grants or contracts for the purpose of delivering services to adult learners statewide. Adult learners are defined as persons 16 years of age and older, not enrolled in school, and lacking essential skills or a credential equivalent to high school completion. Currently, Vermont Adult Learning holds the statewide AEL grant and in turn works in partnership with three other providers (i.e. Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, and The Tutorial Center). It is this group of organizational partners that has been given responsibility, in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Education, for designing and implementing a statewide system for the provision of adult education and literacy services.

### **The *Learning Works* Vision**

*Learning Works* will provide Vermont the highest quality of adult education and literacy services. It will provide a comprehensive set of services in a consistent manner throughout the State in order to meet the educational needs of Vermont's adult learners. It will be accountable for successful learner outcomes as measured in relation to the Equipped For the Future (EFF) Standards, which define the core knowledge and skills adults need to effectively carry out their roles as workers, family members and community members. It will develop resources for this purpose and be an efficient and accountable steward of available resources.

### **The *Learning Works* Mission**

It is the mission of *Learning Works* to meet the educational needs of Vermont's adult learners through supported goal setting and successful literacy skill acquisition, English language acquisition, high school completion, transition to post-secondary education and training, and transition to employment. It is the mission of *Learning Works* to meet the commitment made by the State of Vermont to those adults seeking the knowledge, skills and credentials necessary for success as workers, family members and community members in today's world. It is the mission of *Learning Works* to encourage and facilitate learner persistence, defined as a continuous learning process that lasts until an adult learner meets his or her educational goals. It is the mission of *Learning Works* to encourage learners to engage in a lifetime of inquiry and learning.

### ***Learning Works: A Statement of Common Practice***

In order to fulfill the vision and carry out the mission of *Learning Works*, certain common practice will become the norm throughout the system that is *Learning Works*. This common practice has been identified through research and field experience as having efficacy in relation to the vision and mission. This statement of common practice will be continually reviewed and revised as dictated by emerging research and experience. In order to "provide a comprehensive set of services in a consistent manner throughout the State" the current statement of common practice will inform operational decisions until revised.

In order to encourage and facilitate learner persistence and therefore success:

- intake and orientation will help students understand the available programs,
- set realistic expectations, build a working relationship with program staff, and establish learning goals.

- initial assessment will provide students and teachers with information on learning needs, be integrated with instruction, and form the foundation for measuring progress.
- each learner will have an education plan that reflects his or her learning needs and personal learning goals.
- programs and instructors will measure and recognize student achievement.
- instructional staff, instruction, and support services will be sufficient to support effective learning.
- learning opportunities and curricula will be aligned with *Equipped for the Future Content Standards: What Adults Need to Know and Be Able to Do in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.
- a variety of instructional modes will be available to learners.
- learner accommodations will be available on an equitable basis when appropriate to facilitate learning.